

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, SS, UN, MO

SUBJECT: SISCO-BOUTALEB MEETING ON SPANISH SAHARA

.

1. AT HIS REQUEST MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR ABDELHADI BOUTALEB MET WITH MESSRS SISCO AND ATHERTON NOVEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON SPANISH SAHARA PRIOR TO BOUTALEB'S RETURN TO MOROCCO FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH KING HASSAN. AFTER PROVIDING COPY OF AGREEMENT (TRANSLATION FOLLOWS SEPTTEL) BOUTALEB CONFIRMED THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR SPANISH ADMINISTRATION OF COLONY TO CONTINUE UNTIL FEBRUARY 28 WITH ASSISTANCE OF DEPUTY GOVERNORS FROM MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, LATTER TO PARTICIPATE IN DAY-TO-DAY DIRECTION

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OF COLONY. UPON WITHDRAWAL SPAIN WILL QTE EFFECTIVELY

TRANSFER UNQTE TERRITORY TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. FOLLOWING SPANISH DEPARTURE THE WISHES OF SAHARAN PEOPLE WILL BE ASCERTAINED THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH TERRITORIAL ASSEMBLY THUS SATISFYING BOTH MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AS WELL AS LONG-STANDING UN RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO ON SPANISH NORTH AFRICAN COLONIES AND INSISTING THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO DESIRES OF SAHARAN PEOPLE. COPY OF AGREEMENT TO BE DEPOSITED BY SIGNATORIES WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM BUT VERSION TO BE LEFT WITH UNSYG WILL NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS PROVIDING FOR FISHING RIGHTS FOR SPAIN IN SAHARAN WATERS AND 35 PERCENT SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN PHOSPHATE MINES. MOROCCO TO GET REMAINING 65 PERCENT OF PHOSPHATE - MAURITANIA NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE NO PHOSPHATE FOUND IN PORTION OF SAHARA ALLOTTED TO IT.

2. ON SUBJECT OF ALGERIAN REACTION BOUTALEB CONDEMNED BOUMEDIENE'S CAMPAIGN TO SCUTTLE AGREEMENT AND RESERVED ESPECIAL VITRIOL FOR DESCRIPTION OF ALGERIAN PRESSURE TACTICS DURING RECENT BOUMEDIENE - OULD DADDAH MEETING WHERE, ACCORDING BOUTALEB, MAURITANIANS WERE THREATENED WITH STRENGTHENED POLISARIO WHICH WOULD QTE SPREAD BLOOD AND FIRE THROUGHOUT THE SAHARA UNQTE. BOUTALEB SPECULATED THAT BOUMEDIENE COULD NOT HAVE REFERRED TO EXISTING POLISARIO WHICH HE DISMISSED AS SMALL UNREPRESENTATIVE BANDS, NOR COULD HE HAVE MEANT BOGUS GUERILLA GROUP STAFFED BY ALGERIAN SOLDIERY WHO, BOUTALEB OPINED, WOULD NOT FIGHT FOR LAND NOT CLAIMED BY ALGERIA. PROCESS OF ELIMINATION LED TO CONCLUSION THAT BOUMEDIENE WAS THREATENING USE OF MERCENARIES, POSSIBLY SOVIETS OR CUBANS. IF SPANISH/MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN ADMINISTRATION OF SAHARA WERE FACED WITH INTERNATIONALLY SUPPORTED CAMPAIGN OF SUBVERSION, MOROCCO WOULD PLAN TO CALL ON US TO HELP MAINTAIN REGIONAL STABILITY.

3. GOM HAS ALREADY INDICATED ITS DISPLEASURE WITH SOVIET STAND ON SAHARA AND WITH WHAT RABAT REGARDS ASSC PRESIDENT MALIK'S BIASED HANDLING OF THE MATTER IN THAT FORUM. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO AGADIR FOR DRESSING-DOWN
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AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SENT TO MOSCOW TO DELIVER STIFF PROTEST. IN SAME VEIN BOUTALEB FEELS THAT MOROCCAN RUPTURE OF ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY OVER SAHARA UNDERLINED TO EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES GOM'S RESOLVE IN THIS ISSUE.

4. BOUTALEB THEN REQUESTED ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT ACTIVE US SUPPORT IN UN FOR MOROCCAN VIEW THAT PROPER ROLE

FOR UN IS TO TAKE NOTE OF AGREEMENT BUT NOT TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON IT OR DEBATE ITS MERITS. HE ALSO SUGESTED A US APPROACH TO SOVIETS AT UN TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS AND POSSIBLY HEAD OFF DEVELOPMENT OF DANGEROUS REGIONAL SITUATION.

5. FINALLY BOUTALEB NOTED US DELAYS IN DELIVERIES OF SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS ON OTHER ITEMS, PARTICULARLY REDEYE MISSILE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US COULD NOW BE MORE FORTHCOMING SINCE DANGER OF CONFLICT WITH SPAIN HAS PASSED AND MOROCCO IS CONCERNED ONLY WITH ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE NEEDS.

6. MR. SISCO EXPRESSED US PLEASURE AT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON SAHARA QUESTION AND NOTED THAT ANY HELPFUL ACTIONS WE MAY HAVE TAKEN WERE DONE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST AND WITH A VIEW TOWARD FACILITATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. WHILE US HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE ON SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE WE HAVE URGED NEGOTIATIONS ON PART OF CONCERNED PARTIES AND THESE NATIONS HAVE NOW DEVELOPED A CERTAIN DIRECTION OF THRUST TOWARD SOLUTION. SIGNATORIES TO TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT APPEAR TO BE COORDINATING THEIR POLICIES AND THIS IS WISE AS IN-STEP COORDINATION ALLOWS FEWER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TROUBLEMAKERS. IT ALSO MAKES GOOD DEAL OF SENSE TO KEEP UN OUT OF SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE.

7. MR. SISCO AGREED TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT REQUEST FOR MORE ACTIVE US DIPLOMACY AND TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF DELIVERY DATES FOR MILITARY SALES ITEMS, NOTING THAT IT IS ONE THING TO CONSIDER DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN HOSTILITIES APPEAR IMMINENT AND ANOTHER WHEN MATTERS ARE MOVING TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTION. MR. SISCO ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE MOROCCAN PERMREP IN NEW YORK CONTACT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND KEEP HIM INFORMED OF THE MOROCCAN
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ESTIMATE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION, PARTICULARLY VOTING LINEUPS ON SAHARA.

8. FOR USUN: REQUEST YOU MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH MOROCCANS, PROVIDE ADVANCE READINGS ON PROBABLE ALGERIAN STRATEGY AND ON OVERALL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO TRIPARTITE SAHARA AGREEMENT. KISSINGER

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